WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surface acoustic wave device comprising:

a piezoelectric substrate having a first surface on which comb-like electrodes are formed, and a second surface; and

a support substrate joined to the second surface of the piezoelectric substrate,

the piezoelectric substrate being made of lithium tantalite, and the support substrate being made of sapphire,

the following expressions being satisfied:

$T/t < 1/3$ (1)

$T/\lambda > 10$ (2)

where T is a thickness of the piezoelectric substrate, t is a thickness of the support substrate, and λ is a wavelength of a surface acoustic filter propagated along the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate.

2. The surface acoustic wave device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric substrate is a Y-cut X-propagation piezoelectric substrate.

3. The surface acoustic wave device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface acoustic wave device is a filter.

4. A filter comprising:

a piezoelectric substrate having a first surface on which comb-like electrodes are arranged so as to form a transmit filter and a receive filter, and a second surface; and

a support substrate joined to the second surface of the piezoelectric substrate,

the piezoelectric substrate being made of lithium tantalite, and the support substrate being made of

sapphire,

the following expressions being satisfied:

$$T/t < 1/3 \quad (1)$$

$$T/\lambda > 10 \quad (2)$$

where T is a thickness of the piezoelectric substrate, t is a thickness of the support substrate, and λ is a wavelength of a surface acoustic filter propagated along the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate.